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equally confident, that it will be commended by those—and they are many—who are honoured by his friendship: *they* too will bear willing witness to the justice of these remarks,—while I, who have so frequently experienced the kindness of the worthy baronet, have fulfilled a most gratifying duty, in thus enumerating the principal virtues of the benevolent and hospitable proprietor of Nannau.

MERVINIUS.

THE MISCELLANIST.—No. VII.

EXTRACTS RELATING TO DOLGELLAU.

To the EDITOR of the CAMBRO-BRITON.

SIR,—I am glad to see, that your good correspondent Mervinius has commenced a series of papers, which cannot fail of proving highly interesting to those persons, who are resident in Merionethshire, or who, indeed, like myself, have only visited that beautiful and secluded country. Many years ago I performed an excursion through that part of North Wales, and I now take so much interest in all that relates to that hospitable country, that I am not quite sure but I shall visit it again next summer. However, the object of this letter is not to describe the particulars of my excursion, but to send you an extract or two from Camden and Fuller, relative to Dolgellau. The first thus describes that town:—“Where the river Avon (Wnion*?) runs more westerly lies Dolgelheu, a small market town, so called from the valley, in which it is seated, or rather from its situation in a woody vale; the word *Dól* being much the same with the English *Dale*, so common in the north of England and in Scotland, and *Kelhe* (in the southern dialect *Kelhi*,) signifying strictly a *wood where much hazel grows*, and being sometimes used for any other wood; though, at present, there are not so many woods about this town, as there were formerly†. What antiquity this place is of, or whether of any note in the time of the Romans, is uncertain. However, some of their coyns have been, of late years, dug up near a well called *Fynon Vawr*, within a bow-shot of the town; two whereof were sent to me by the Reverend Rector of the place, (Mr. Maurice Jones,) which are fair silver pieces of Trajan and Adrian, viz.—

* Is not the proper name *Gwynion* or *Y Wynion*?—ED.

† Dolgellau implies, literally, the Holme of the Groves.—ED.

1. IMP. TRAIANO. AVG. GER. DAC. P.M. TR.P. COS. V. P. P. S. P.,
QR. OPTIMO. PRINC*.—*Trophæum de Dacis.*

2. IMP. CAESAR TRAJAN HADRIANUS AVG. P. M. TR. P. COS. III."
Gibson's Camden, Vol. ii, p. 785.

The following is Fuller's description :—

- " 1. The walls thereof are three miles high.
2. Men go into it over the water ; but
3. Go out of it under the water.
4. The steeple thereof doth grow therein.
5. There are more ale-houses than houses."

These five enigmas he explains in the following manner. The *first* is explained by the mountains, which surround the place. The *second* implies that on one side of the town there was a bridge, over which all travellers must pass ; and the *third* that, on the other side, they had to go under a wooden trough, which conveyed water from a rock, at a mile distant, to an over shot mill. For the *fourth* he says, the bells, if plural, hung in a yew tree, and for the *last*, that " tenements were divided into two or more tipping houses, and that even chimney-less barns were used often for the same purpose." None of these remarks are now applicable, except the two first.—*Fuller's Worthies of Wales, p. 43, and Bingley's North Wales, Vol. ii, p. 30.*

The following anecdote is also related by Mr. Bingley :—" A student of Jesus College, Oxford, who was a native of Dolgelley, was one afternoon drinking with some college friends, when one of them, in a bantering stile, asked him what kind of place it was, that had been honoured in giving him birth ? ' There,' said he, flinging on the table a handful of nuts, and setting up a cork in the middle, ' suppose each of these nuts a house, and that cork the church,—you will have a tolerable idea of Dolgelley ! ' "

Should you, Mr. Editor, deem these extracts worthy of insertion in the CAMBRO-BRITON, they are heartily at your service, and, hoping, that Mervinius will continue his lucubrations, I am,

Sir, your obedient servant,

London, 11 Sept. 1820.

SENEX ANGLICANUS.

* Imperatori Trajano, Augusto, Germanico, Dacico, Pontifici Maximo, Tribunia potestate, Consuli quinto, Patri Patriæ, Senatus Populusque Romanus Optimo Principi.